



# County of San Diego

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## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY

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HIV, STD and Hepatitis  
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing  
Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

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## Medical Director's Update for Base Station Physicians' Committee January, 2012

**Congratulations to Mary Murphy, RN, CSA-17** and Rancho Santa Fe Fire. Mary was awarded a Meritorious Service Medal by the California Emergency Medical Services Authority as part of their EMS Awards program. She was cited for "superior EMS coordination, education, and leadership in San Diego County" as nurse coordinator for the CSA.

**Also recognized were Debbie Moore, RN, from Escondido** who received an Inter-Service EMS Recognition. She was "instrumental in saving the life" of an eighth grader who collapsed in the school gym. **Physical education teacher Brian Hudson** from Escondido received a Civilian Award for suggesting the purchase of the AED.

**Congratulations to Scripps Mercy** on their new emergency department. They now have a beautiful spacious department with individual rooms and larger spaces. The emphasis on brief initial evaluation and rapid placement in an appropriate space for beginning stabilization and evaluation will continue. They have an in department CT. The Mercy base will have more space and an improved location. This is a wonderful addition to the EMS System.

**Flu cases jumped the last two weeks.** Most are influenza A. The first death from influenza in the state occurred last month, even before detected cases rose. Here in the County, ED visits for fever, GI illness, and respiratory illness all rose several weeks ago. It is not too late for influenza vaccination, which protects both EMS personnel and patients.

**Pertussis cases** continue although at a lower level. EMS personnel should receive a Tdap pertussis vaccine.

**This year's capacity plan was distributed.** The number of December transports rose, and patients bypassed went up. Please see the data charts below.

**The midazolam shortage continues.** Suppliers tell us they expect shipments by the end of January, although there is no guarantee. Remember to use unexpired midazolam for patient care if you have it available. Continue to keep supplies of recently expired medication, e.g. expiring December 31, 2011, for use when it is the only option.

**Field units should make base contact early.** Contact shortly before arrival makes it impossible for the base to evaluate the patient's needs, and denies the receiving hospital time to make room for, and prepare for, the patient.

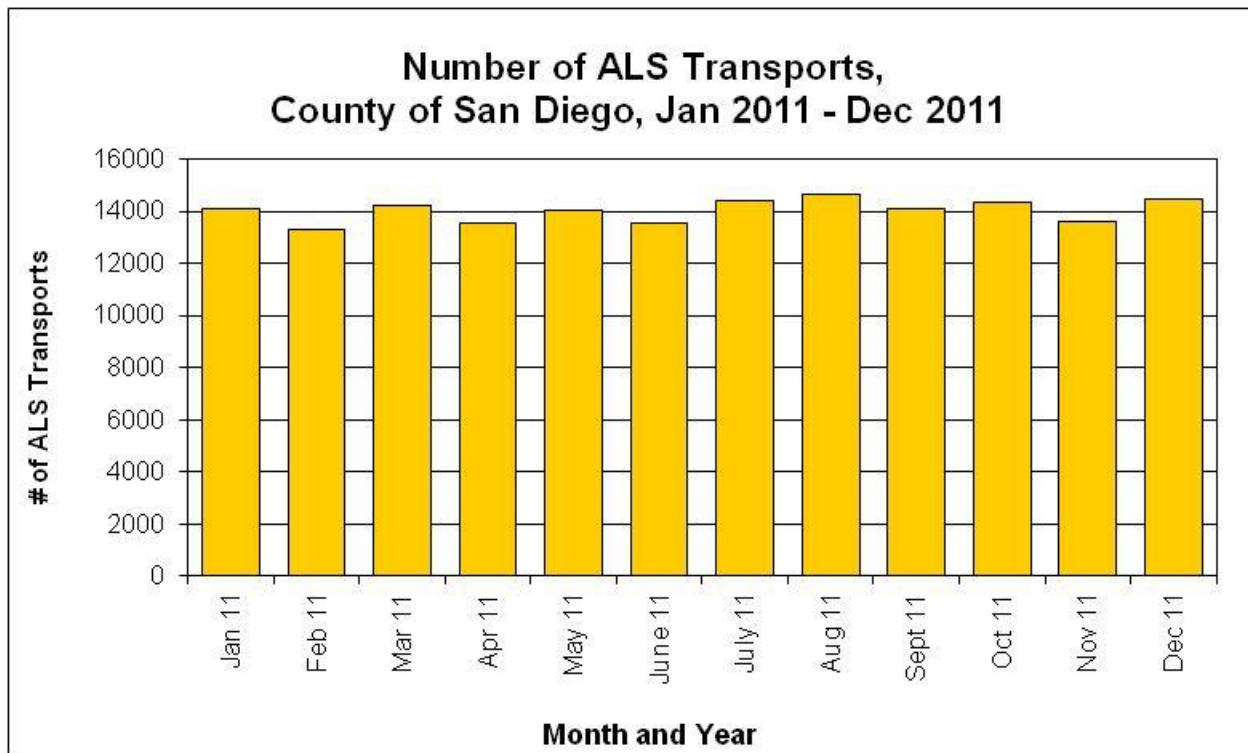
**Field units please supply the base your agency number** and four-digit unit numbers. This is important to facilitate the PCR upload/matching process for data collection. Accurate data helps the system.

**A trauma triage guide** revision just issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updates their 2009 document. The American College of Surgeons is also revising their "Optimal Resources" guide for trauma care. These revisions will be used for a review of our trauma triage criteria, although in most cases the new guideline matches our trauma triage criteria and there would be few significant changes. Thanks to Chris Van Gorder of Scripps Health for his participation.

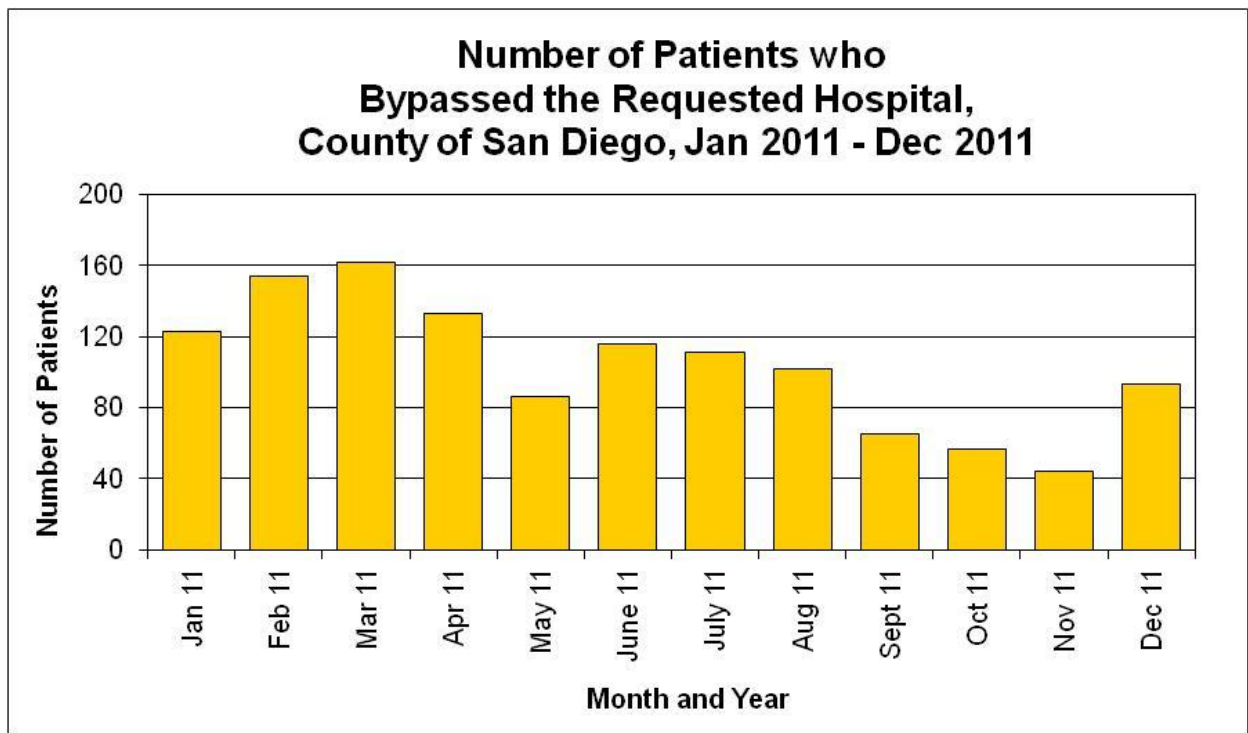
**Current, up to date disaster information and preparedness** recommendations are available at one OES website, [www.sdcountyemergency.com](http://www.sdcountyemergency.com).

**A new statute outlaws sales of synthetic cannabinoids such as Spice and K-12.**

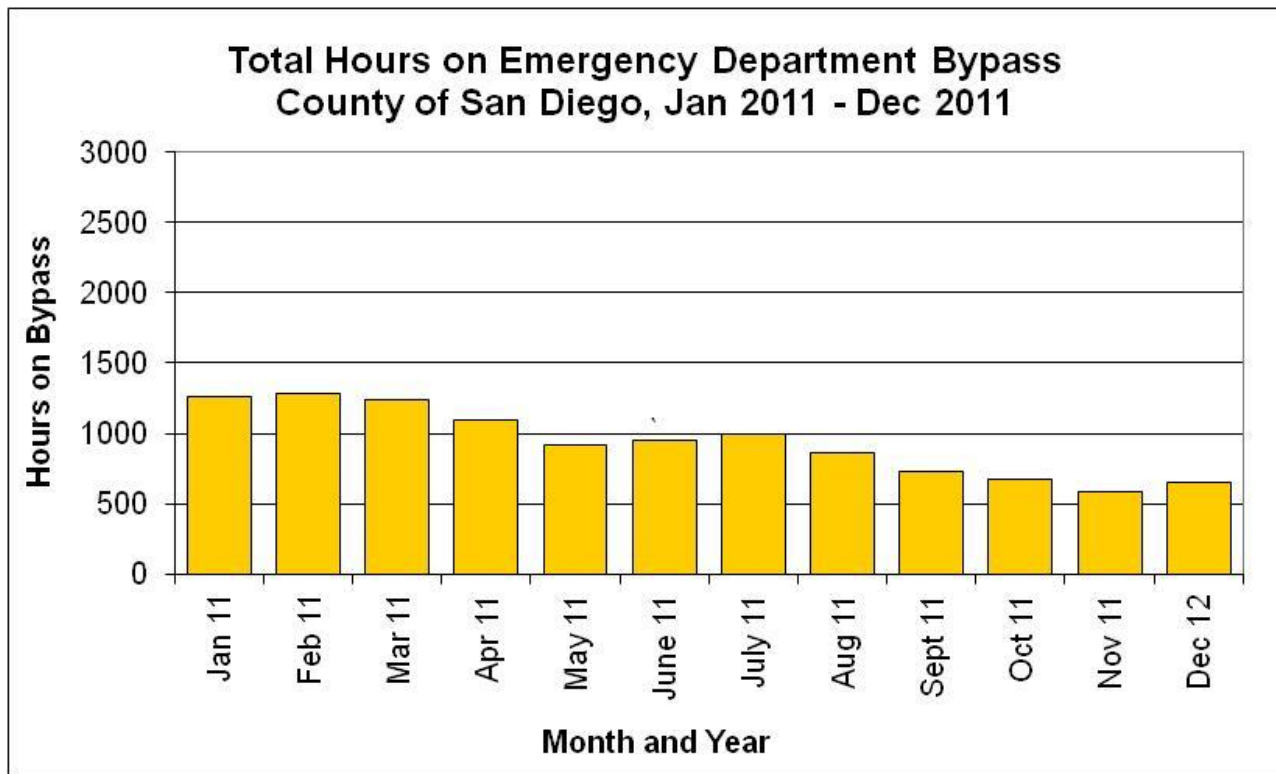
**Narcotic use results in serious skin infections.** Patients should be evaluated for potentially serious infections and illness from contaminants. One is toxic shock syndrome in which a small area of infection at needle puncture site causes systemic sepsis and a spreading area of necrotic infection that may be life-threatening without surgery. Another is a contaminant that may result in dark purpuric (purple appearing) lesions, especially on the tips of nose or ears. This is associated with depression of white cells and serious infection.



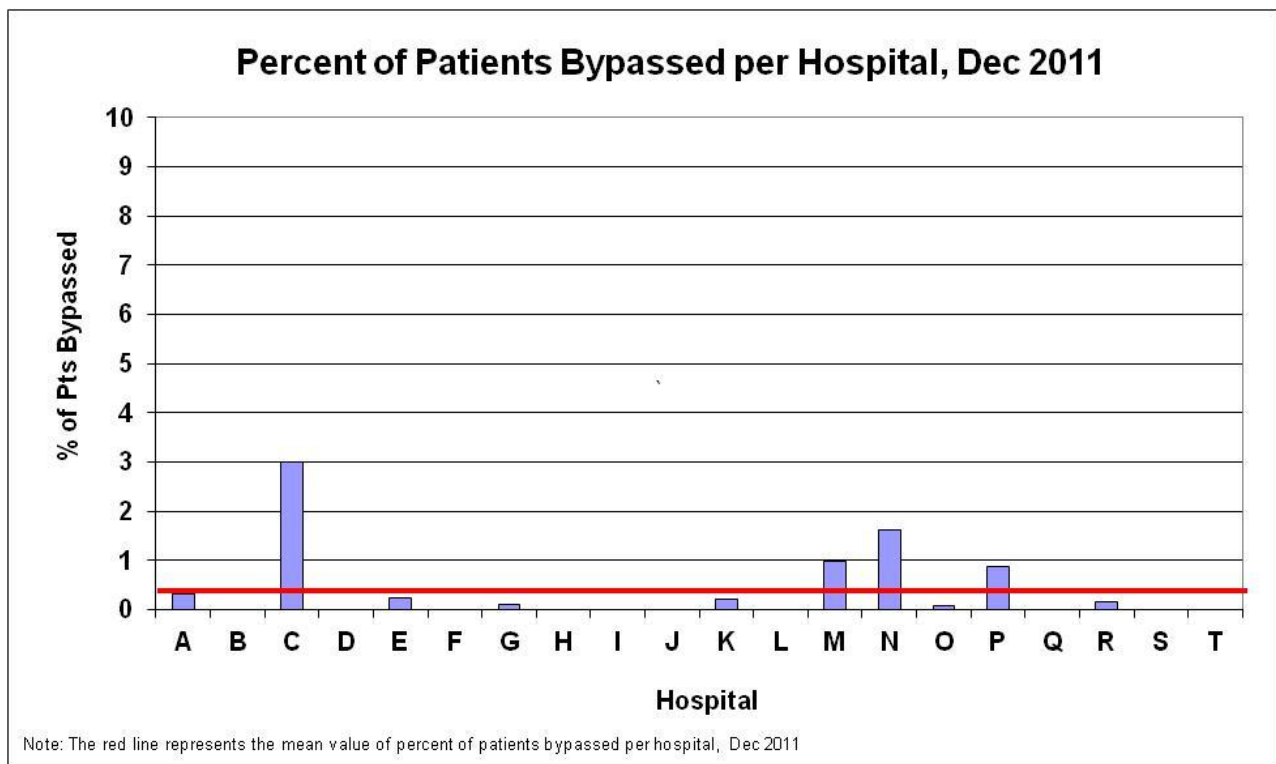
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2011 – Dec 2011 Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other



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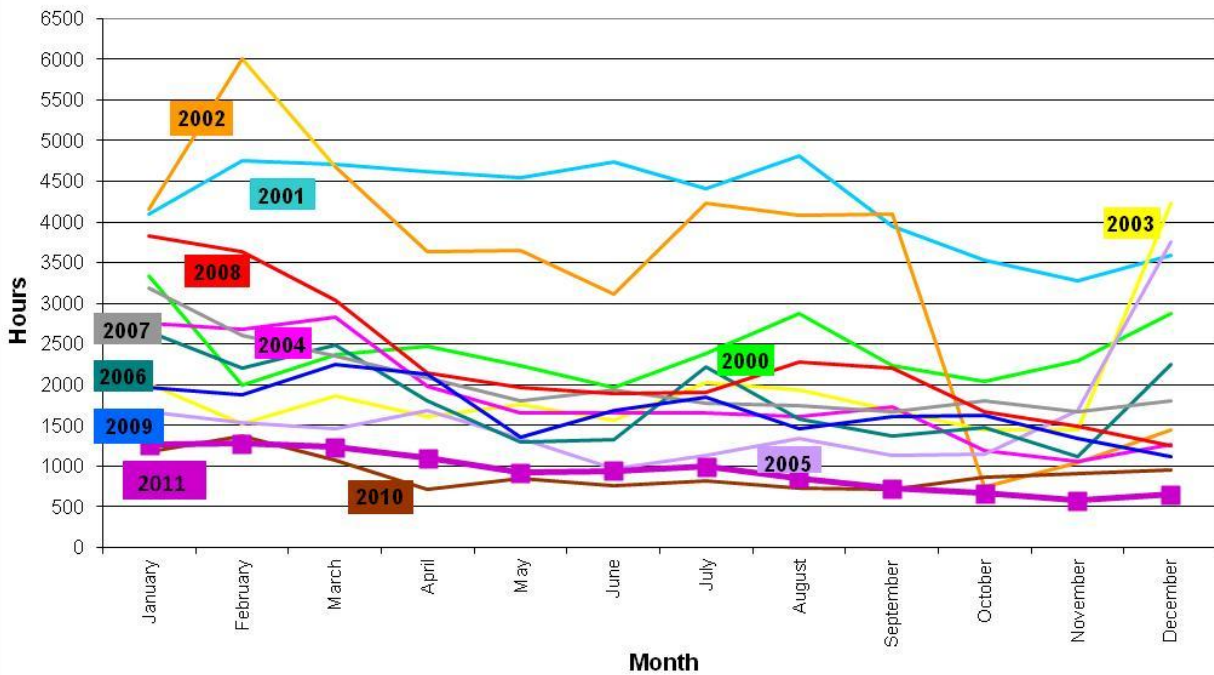
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2011 – Dec 2011



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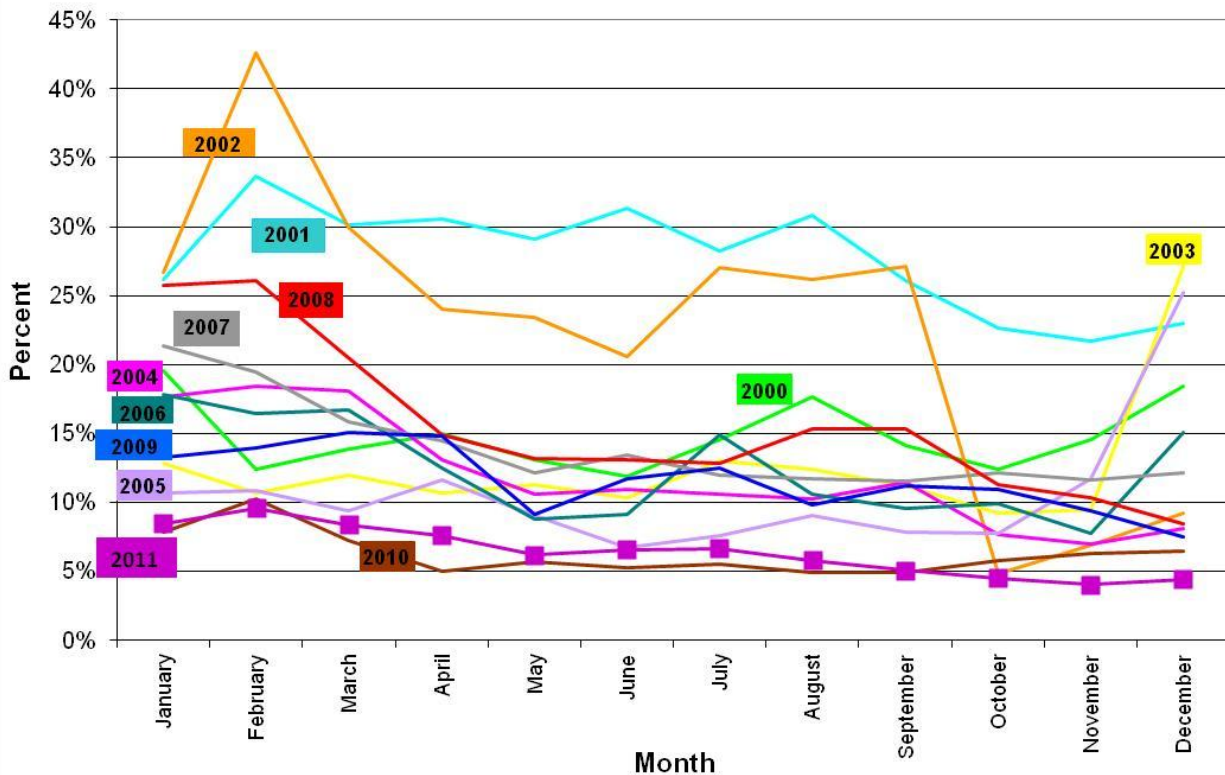
Note: Numbers based on Run Outcomes of Transport by Unit and Transport by Other

### Total Hours on ED Saturation by Month and Year, San Diego County, Jan 2000 - Dec 2011



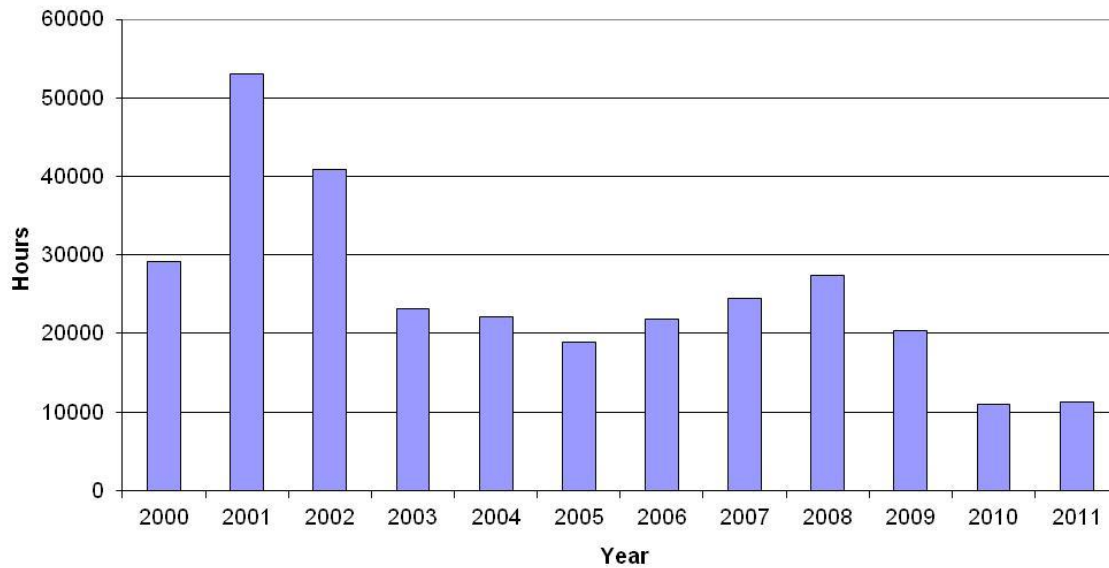
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Dec 2011

### Overall Percent Hours on ED Sat Per Month San Diego County, Jan 2000 - Dec 2011



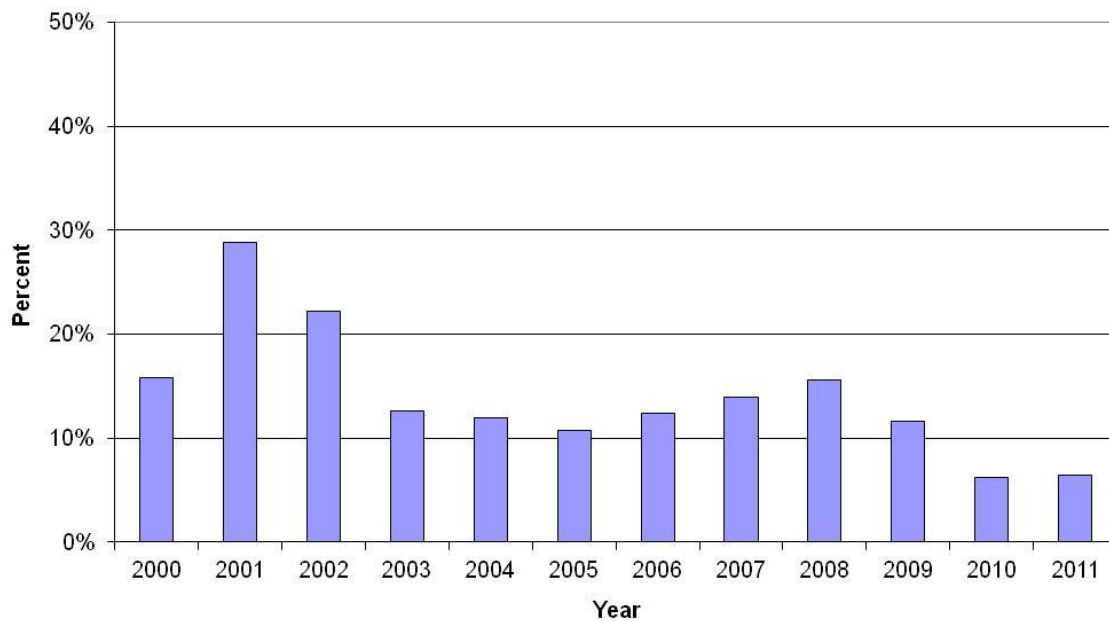
Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, Jan 2000 – Dec 2011

### Total Hours on ED Saturation by Year, San Diego County, 2000-2011



Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2011

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Source: County of San Diego, Health and Human Services Agency, Emergency Medical Services, MICN Records, 2000 – 2011